

BEI S. ABZUG
20TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
PUBLIC WORKS

Approved For Release 2003/11/05 : CIA-RDP76M00527R000700150003-5

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

January 14, 1975

William E. Colby
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Colby:

In view of recent allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency has gathered and maintained lists and dossiers on thousands of Americans as part of a domestic spying operation, in violation of its 1947 enabling legislation, I am writing to ask that you make immediate restitution to those individuals whose Constitutional rights have been violated.

The CIA can begin to do so by informing each individual whose name is on a list or dossier illegally held by the CIA, by providing that individual with access to his or her file, and by permitting expungement of any material or data which is illegally maintained if the individual so requests.

An individual's right of access to files and records containing personal information on him or her that are maintained by Federal agencies has been established by the Privacy Act of 1974. Although the law allows CIA records to be exempted, the exemption is not mandatory and is discretionary with the director of the agency. Certainly it was not the intent of Congress that an agency director should deny an individual access to files that the agency had no legal right to maintain in the first place.

Moreover, under Sec. 3(e) (7) of the Privacy Act, the CIA records may not be exempted from a provision that prohibits the maintenance of records "describing how any individual exercises rights guaranteed by the First Amendment unless expressly authorized by statute or by the individual about whom the record is maintained, or unless pertinent to and within the scope of an authorized law enforcement activity."

Clearly, there is no basis either in the Constitution or in the law for the CIA's gathering or maintaining such files. I, therefore, urge you to act immediately to make these files available to the individuals involved so that they may request and effect expungement of any illegally collected data.

ole 75-0062
WASHINGTON OFFICE:
408 LONGWORTH OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
252-7TH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10001
725 WEST 181ST STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10033
720 COLUMBUS AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10025

Executive Registry

75-205

Abzug

CRC, 9/29/2003

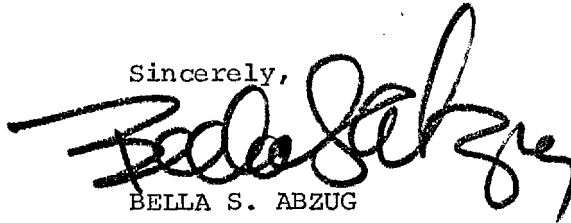
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William E. Colby
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Also, I would like to know, in general, whether the CIA has gathered or maintained lists or dossiers on Members of Congress, as part of its domestic surveillance operation, and, in particular, whether you have gathered or maintained a listing and/or dossier on me. If so, I would appreciate your allowing me the right to inspect this file and determine its disposition.

Sincerely,




A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bella S. Abzug', written in a cursive style.

BELLA S. ABZUG
Member of Congress

BSA/ja

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1 -  for WEC
1 - 
3 - 
1 - PLC
Orig - file

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Individuals invited to attend Director's meeting with Chairman
William S. Moorhead (D., Pa.), House Government Operations Committee,
Thursday, 23 January 1975, 2:00 p.m.

John E. Moss (D., Calif.)
Torbert H. MacDonald (D., Mass.)
Jim Wright (D., Tex.)
Bella S. Abzug (D., N. Y.)
James V. Stanton (D., Ohio)
Bill Alexander (D., Ark.)

Gilbert Gude (R., Md.)
Paul N. McCloskey, Jr. (R., Calif.)
Charles Thone (R., Nebr.)
Ralph S. Regula (R., Ohio)